

Nevada Tribal Interagency Solid Waste Workgroup Meeting
Office of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc.
Wednesday, January 7, 2009
1:00pm – 4:30pm

Attendees:

Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe: Richard Black and Lula Ketchum
Fort McDermitt: Duane Masters Sr.
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe: John Mosley and Beverly Harry
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony: Russell Brigham and Travis Petchell
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe: Ron Johnny
Walker River Paiute Tribe: Roxanne L. Ellingson
Washoe Tribe: Marie Barry
Yerington Paiute Tribe: Justin Whitesides
Yomba Shoshone Tribe: Teola Brady
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. (ITCN): Tansey Smith
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): Matt Spaulding
USDA Rural Development: Barbara Allen
Indian Health Service: George Pringle
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP): Ed Glick
Environmental Finance Center Region 9 (EFC9): Sarah Diefendorf, Susan Blachman, Karri Winn, Roxanne Rivas, Matt Trocker, Sasho Emlen, and Pete Whitford.
U.S. EPA Region 9: Nancy Sockabasin

EFC9 Presentations:

There is a lack of recycling infrastructure throughout the state of Nevada. EPA is working with the Environmental Finance Center Region 9 on a project to look at new ways of increasing recycling in the state and making it more economically feasible for tribes to develop and implement recycling programs in their communities

EFC9 (Sarah): EFC9 has done a project previously for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians that was previously led by Karri, with assistance from Roxanne R. and Sasho. Offer tribes the opportunity to review the report they have completed for Torres Martinez.

EFC9 (Karri): EFC9 is open to ideas for other aspects of the recycling project. They have done some general research into what is currently happening in Nevada.

EFC9 (Matt T.): The Green MBA program focuses on people, planet, and profit, taking all three into consideration. Matt T. is taking a macro look at the state's work on recycling and has talked to universities in NV and people in paper, glass, and other industries. Looking at education components such as: how much is known? who to talk to? what needs to be presented to people? Looking at what businesses are there that

manufacture recycled products and what types of recycling are available in certain areas. EFC9 will tailor their report based on tribal comments.

EFC9 (Pete): Pete is looking at creative ideas to transport recyclables, such as back hauling. He has already researched and spoken to specific recyclers, ie Trex plastic lumber. He has not found a lot of private recyclers in the area. There is however some equipment available for sharing, such as garbage trucks and a cardboard bailer. He is realizing that for recycling you need large quantities in order to make it profitable.

EFC9 (Sasho): Sasho spent some time researching recycling successes that other tribes have accomplished. One has leveraged grants by working with Coca-Cola to purchase recycling bins. Another tribe has started using reusable products at tribal businesses. And one other tribe created a recycling education program.

EFC9 (Roxanne R.): Roxanne R. would like to use the First Nations Asset Building Framework in the options that they propose to look at building social, political, and legal aspects of the options. She then distributed a recycling questionnaire for participants to fill out at the meeting. If you were not at the meeting and would like to complete the questionnaire, contact Roxanne R. at roxanne@greenmba.com.

Tribal Discussion:

Discussion began with EFC9 asking tribes if they had any ideas for areas of research for them to consider when completing this project.

Yerington: Could tribes start Tribal CRVs (Cash Redemption Values)? What would be the logistics?

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC): Russell has heard that CA and MI are losing money because there are a lot of out-of-state bottles/returnables coming in. They are thinking of ways to avoid this in the future. Tribes might have problems with non-reservation returnables coming into their system.

Summit Lake: What about the fact that things would be cheaper off the reservation?

Yerington: Convenience would be a factor for on reservation. People may be willing to pay slightly more to avoid longer travel. Maybe doing a card/bar code system would work. You would get a card when you buy bottle and would be required to have it, in order to return for value.

EFC9 will do some research into the Tribal CRVs.

Pyramid Lake: Beverly mentioned that the rural population may be creating more waste than reservations. Are we trying to change behavior on reservation, or reduce waste

going to the landfill? Waste minimization needs to start on the federal level to reduce contribution that manufactures create through their packaging.

Summit Lake: Waste is coming from CA to NV. It's a big business now for Waste Management. If we are trying to reduce waste in landfills, need to talk to CA and CA businesses.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): Not sure if the profit will be there, if we create these recycling programs. Need to focus on education and reduce waste creation.

Yerington: If the demand is not there, no one's going to care. If there is a demand and interest, some one can make it profitable.

RSIC (Russell): Need to research the costs for building the infrastructure.

Yerington: Tribes need to get together and make it feasible

Washoe: Maybe using trains is an option. May not be looking for markets in Nevada, but maybe CA and UT. Coordinate together, in order to do it. She determined that 64% of what Washoe is putting into the trash can, can be recycled. Currently someone else is making money off of what they recycle. Want the tribe to make money off of this. Currently limited to plastics 1, 2 and 3.

Summit Lake: Many people take cans to CA to get fair-market value.

EFC9 (Pete): Looking into backhauling, to avoid some transportation costs.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): Really work on social behaviors. Need bins/containers and develop that structure. Need better product stewardship, need to push green all the way. We could all do a little better with our green behaviors. How do you impose that change? Include promotions and environmental education. Promoting Reservation Beautiful Program and be proud of your heritage.

Yerington: Take all grant money from tribes and create a grand recycling center for all tribes to use. You'd get economies of scale and tribes would get a comparable portion of the profits.

RSIC (Russell): Look at 2-3 hubs, or centers, where tribes could take recyclables, ie Reno, Elko.

Yerington: Create a new business, ie make blue jeans out of insulation. Doesn't make sense to give small amounts of money to individual tribes, pull it together and make a business.

EFC9 (Sarah): Is there interest in broadening scope of recyclable collection, to get the economy of scale?

Yerington: They were thinking of taking the city's, as well as tribe's recyclables.

Pyramid Lake (John): If there was one central location, tribes could get compensated for what they bring in.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): Center should spend time developing the technology. Least amount of effort should be put in to getting the end product. Efficiency is going to help turn the profit.

EFC9 (Pete): Need separation in the homes, when you have smaller scales.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): Need to have a place to put recyclables, and make everyone aware of it.

RSIC (Russell): \$10M to build a MRF in Reno area.

EFC9 (Pete): Is there a way to share the trash trucks that Reno-Sparks and Pyramid Lake have?

NDEP: Single stream study completed in Reno. People recycled more if everything was in one place, but they needed new trucks and infrastructure within the facility. A \$10M startup cost, and not sure how long it would take to pay back. Not sure if you can do this on a small scale.

Washoe: Fluctuation in the market, recyclables and steel prices could go way down. Would you be hoarding recyclables? Might want to recycle a lot of different streams, but take one thing and manufacture something from it? Paper? Then the fluctuation issue wouldn't be as much of an issue.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): They have an ordinance that no trash can come on the reservation from off reservation, but John stated that will change.

EFC9 (Karri): Recycled glass counter tops, Trex plastic lumber are examples of industries that used recycled products.

Yerington: Business may want to partner with a tribe for tax purposes. Could create a central location and could standardize and universalize posters and education materials.

EFC9 (Susan): Anyone doing green waste?

Washoe: Yes, and working with biofuel company in Carson and they do composting and landscaping with their green waste. For used grease they are working with Bentley to make biofuel.

EFC9 (Matt T.): Spoke with someone at Bentley to increase the grease waste program for other tribes. What are you ultimately trying to do, if you had a lot of money, what do you see the future could be?

Pyramid Lake (John): Would like to have a landfill and recycling center. Be a hub to recycle material, manufacturing as well, from tires for example. Everyone diversifies, one tribe could do plastics, one could do biofuel, etc. Everyone would collect the same things, but individual tribes would manufacture things from one specific recyclable.

Yerington: A plasmafication center to incinerate trash and make energy/fuel.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): Up against EPA regulations for landfill, would be heavily regulated. Provides an unnatural look to the landscape. Start at the roots of where we began, 60-70 years ago, providing for your family through generating your own crops, little waste created. Need to instill traditional values and ways of life back into the community. Maintain traditional life on the reservation. Create a native seed program for people to grow their own food. Need to think outside the box to create a different kind of awareness about waste prevention. Proactively working toward solutions. EPA is supposed to help broadcast this campaign. Tribes want to be able to suggest solutions that others listen to. Be more engaged in global thinking.

EFC9 (Susan): Product Stewardship Institute – companies taking back products at end-of-life.

RSIC (Travis): Put a ban on throwing away certain recyclable materials and institute a fine. Would increase recycling on the reservation and money for the program due to fines and increased profit from recyclables. Create a training program for people to recycle. Have tribes issue a statement on the goals of sustainability for the tribe and create an outreach and education program that provides continual education.

EFC9 (Sarah): Maybe incorporate a reward/incentive program as well the help strengthen the program. Important to make the education program continual.

EFC9 (Susan): Alameda County did a reward program and did random searches and gave money for people who didn't have recyclables in their trash.

Yerington: Circuit city and Wal-Mart have been known to give gift cards to encourage people to bring in recyclables.

Pyramid Lake (John): Tribes have no-dumping laws, but dumping still happens, can't enforce it. The incentive is to give money. Recycling rates will go up.

Fort McDermitt: Have a no dumping law that was passed, but hasn't been implemented. Reservation residents should contract for curbside. Currently working on education program for waste management. Low income families on the reservation, so it is a hardship to pay for trash pick up. Economic development would be good for the

reservation, but change is hard for the tribal members. Large land base, so could create a warehouse type of business, but hasn't gone to council yet for approval. Have been trying various projects for years, but nothing has passed.

Fallon (Richard): Would like to expand recycling program to have curbside pickup. Currently an outside contractor is picking up. Would like to have tribal transfer station. Collect a lot of cardboard and paper. Give a lot of cardboard, would be good to make a profit off of that.

Fallon (Lula): Go around once a week to pick up office recycling. Have a transfer station with the city, includes recycling. Fallon naval air station picks it up. Want to expand to curbside, for at least the elders.

RSIC (Russell): First waste stream analysis - 45% percent recyclable materials. Would like to have a drop off location for recyclables. A lot of cardboard waste. Would like to see some job creation. Reduce waste and provide education to administration and businesses on the reservation. Developing program to give computers to people from old administration computers.

Washoe: Have a recycling program since 2001. Plans to develop recycling transfer station, also metal, green waste, reuse area, and oil changing area. Would be open to Douglas County as well (60K residents). Currently don't have a curbside program in that county. Would like to re-do waste stream analysis and update their plans. Need money to build facility, with 2 full time employees and working with tribal member who does auto recycling. 10 acres reserved for expansion if they decide to do paper recycling to manufacture something.

Yomba: 100 residents, solid waste technician knows who is throwing away what. Solid waste is not her main issue. Goal is to preserve the riparian area, Reese River, mountains on either side of them, so they're in the valley.

Walker River: Want a reservation with no ordnances, no transportation of nuclear and hazardous waste, and no mercury being transported across the reservation. Working on getting another trash truck. Want a community self-regulated recycling area, for profit. Not sure about the feasibility of recycling right now. Would like to see more effort on the tribe's part for waste reduction. High unemployment rate, 29%, so some can't pay the current waste removal costs, or water costs. Long term plan to get people to pay their bills, some type of responsibility on those fees. Currently no enforcement of these fees. Maybe implementing water meters as an incentive. Need to close down burning landfill, and tribe will be hit with some costs.

Summit Lake: Talked a lot about how our people have changed. Federal government spent decades and millions of dollars to try to assimilate tribal people. Very few organized programs to create a positive image and promote our traditional values; elementary school books referred to Northern Paiute as "digger" Indians. Goal at Summit Lake, turn it back to what it was in the past years. Currently have an open pit

dump with waste from former tribal employees and junk vehicles from the State and federal government. Clean this up and leave the reservation the way it was. Economic development is opposed. Biggest problem is the Ruby (natural gas) pipeline that is being proposed near northern boundary of the reservation. Given remoteness of Summit Lake Reservation, the Council has not enacted an IWMP. Trying out what is a “Carry Out What You Carry In” policy now which is how the IWMP will be designed. Tribe wants the Lahoton cutthroat trout protected by all means. 12 residences on Reservation, but Reservation shuts down for the winter, because surrounding counties will not clear their roads of snow or drifts during winter (lack of road passage).

EFC9 (Sarah): Anything else we should consider in the way of opportunities or issues

Yerington: Are there tax vouchers for recycling? Have they thought about that?

EFC9 (Sarah): Don’t think so. CA might have some, but not aware of anything federal. Some incentives for certain waste streams (ewaste), but not for recycling in general, ie take-back programs

EFC9 (Susan): Are large events an opportunity to green or collect recyclables?

Summit Lake: Indians would be demonstrating recycling at these events by using and reusing everything—feathers, beads and deer skin on their regalia, etc. Indians may not be the ones creating waste at those events.

Washoe: Get a lot of plastic from these events. Take their recycling trailer to these events. Used compostable tableware at their employee picnic. Got compost bins from NDEP, when they had money.

Yerington: Perhaps tribes could have a Green trailer that could go around and pick up recyclables from large events.

RSIC (Russell): Set up recycling containers at their large events, and now people expect it. Hire outside contractor to pick up waste. Looking into zero-waste event with advice from local company.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): Navajo has a bus that goes to different areas of the reservation, moving WIC bus, for women and children to get checkups. Tribes together could get a bus like that to employee recycling efforts on the reservations. Promote education, along with the recycling effort.

EFC9 (Susan): Karri is an expert in greening events and green vendors.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): Is this a one year study? How will tribes reap the rewards? When should they expect recommendations and ideas?

EFC9 (Sarah): Draft by end of semester. Would be initial part of the study and would like to continue in future years. Joint effort between EFC9 and tribes to help address some of these issues.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): Don't want to have their ideas sold to other organizations, and don't want to just have a report to sit on a shelf.

ITCN: Would like to see the students and people who aren't familiar with reservations, understand that socioeconomic and social issues combine to make complex issues. Take into consideration that there are other problems that are combined on reservations. It's not just about recycling.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): You really need to spend some time on the reservation to understand the issues. There are social problems out there. Recommend that the students go out there and spend some time touring the reservations.

RSIC (Russell): Other tribes may not have been here and could provide some valuable information, so EFC9 should get in touch with those other tribes too.

Washoe: If they are going to use models, she wants to be aware of how it's used and how it can be used for the tribes.

USDA: They have a program for solid waste management. Solicitation comes out in October, apply by Dec 31. Tribes can do a study on solid waste management, or do an education program and get community involved, can also start a recycling program. Administered in DC, earth day announcement. In NV there was \$120K for 2 grants last year. It's a nationwide competitive program. Landfills would fall under a separate program, but have a loan program for that. Also have water programs.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): Need to find a way to obtain more money for the programs. The need is high, but the funding is low, and decreasing.

EFC9 (Sarah): Also looking at other grants that can be used for these types of projects

BIA: In past years the budgets have been reduced, cut 14%, but expenses went up 20%. May have lay offs. Situation is currently not good, but things may get better under the next administration.

Pyramid Lake (Beverly): What are EFC9's perceptions of what the tribes have presented today?

EFC9 (Sasho): Noticed many companies claim to be green and aren't. Think Wal-Mart might be able to give communities what they need and should be doing that. Ideas for what Wal-Mart could do?

Washoe: No plastic bags.

EFC9 (Matt T.): Everything he has been taught or read of Native Americans is that they are stewards of the environment. Helpful to hear the other issues that have an effect on this project.

EFC9 (Susan): Some really creative ideas that they will be sorting through. Lots of material to work with.

ITCN: In new Wal-Marts, promote local growers, offering workshops for composting and recycling, etc.

ACTION ITEMS

1) Barbara, from USDA, will website to Nancy and she will put it in the notes.

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/SWMG.htm>

2) Nancy will send notes out for comments.

3) Susan, from EFC9, will send out the info collected on recycling services.

File attached to email.

Susan also thought participants would be interested in the following link:

<http://www.storyofstuff.com/>

4) Russell will send information on email group and Nancy will add to notes.

http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/tribal_solid_waste/

5) Send ideas for future meeting topics to Nancy.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in July 2009 in conjunction with the Nevada Tribal Environmental Managers Meeting. We will schedule the Nevada Tribal Interagency Solid Waste Workgroup Meeting for half a day prior to, or following the Managers Meeting. The topic will be EPA's newly developed Auto Recycling Guide and Nancy will work with Aurora to schedule the date, and with Aurora and John to finalize the location, possibly at Pyramid Lake and including a tour.

Ideas for future meetings:

- Anti-litter campaign from Nevada tribes